

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for preventing delivery of selected SMS messages, comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet data unit (PDU) including an SMS message destined for an end user;
determining that the received PDU is a "submit_sm" PDU;

~~determining that one or more telephone numbers distinct from a source identifier of a sender of the SMS message are associated with the SMS message by searching the "submit_sm" PDU for one or more telephone numbers present in either the text of a "short_message" parameter or a "callback_num" parameter associated with the "submit_sm" PDU SMS message;~~

comparing the one or more telephone numbers to a plurality of predetermined telephone numbers, and

selectively preventing delivery of the SMS message to the end user if any of the one or more telephone numbers associated with the SMS "submit_sm" PDU message matches any of the plurality of predefined telephone numbers in the list.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the searching determining step further comprises the step of:

searching the "short_message" parameter of the "submit_sm" PDU SMS message for a plurality of numbers each having a predefined pattern.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the searching determining step comprising the step further includes the steps of:

searching for the one or more telephone numbers in the “short_message” parameter; and
searching for the one or more telephone numbers in the “callback_num” parameter.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the predefined pattern includes one of a group of 7 consecutive numbers and a group of 10 consecutive numbers.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of predefined telephone numbers are stored in a list and wherein the list is periodically updated.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the preventing step further includes the step of deleting the SMS message.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, including the further step of sending a message to the originator of the SMS message informing the sender that the SMS message has been deleted.

10., 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A system for preventing delivery of SMS messages, comprising:
one or more network processing devices; and
a list of predefined telephone numbers;
the one or more network processing devices operative to:

receive a packet data unit (PDU) from a sending device, the received PDU data including an SMS message destined for an intended SMS receiving device;

detecting that the received PDU is a “submit_sm” PDU including at least one of[,,] ~~the data further being associated with~~ a “short_message” parameter and a “callback_num” parameter;

extracting one or more telephone number distinct from a source identifier of a sender of the SMS message from either of the “short_message” parameter or the “callback_num” parameter;

comparing the extracted one or more telephone numbers to the list of predefined telephone numbers; and

selectively preventing delivery of the a message to the intended SMS receiving device if any of the one or more telephone numbers matches any of the telephone numbers in the list of predefined telephone numbers.

13. (previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the one or more network processing devices comprises a short message service center (SMSC).

14. (previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the one or more network processing devices comprises an SMSC and a database remote from the SMSC.